

The Comical Historie of

Ner. How like you the young Germaine, the Duke of Saxo-
nies nephew?

Por. Very vildly in the morning when hee is sober, and most
videly in the afternoone when he is drunke: when he is best, he is
a little worse then a man, and when he is worst he is little better
then a beast, and the worst fall that ever fell, I hope I shall make
shift to goe without him.

Ner. If he should offer to choose, and choose the right Casket,
you should refuse to performe your Fathers will, if you should
refuse to accept him.

Por. Therefore for feare of the worst, I pray thee set a deepe
glasse of Reynish wine on the contrary Casket, for if the Devill
be within, and that temptation without, I know he will choose
it. I will doe any thing *Nerrissa* ere I will be married to a sponge.

Ner. You neede not feare Lady the having any of these Lords,
they have acquainted me with their determinations, which is in-
deed to returne to their home, and to trouble you vvith no more
sute, unlesse you may be wonne by some other sort then your Fa-
thers imposition, depending on the Caskets.

Por. If I live to be old as *Sibilla*, I will die as chaste as *Diana*,
unlesse I be obtained by the manner of my Fathers will: I am glad
this parcell of woers are so reasonable, for there is not one among
them but I doat on his very absence, and I pray God grant them
a faire departure.

Ner. Doe you not remember Lady, in your Fathers time, a Ve-
netian, a Scholler and a Souldier that came hither in company of
the Marquesse of *Mounferrat*?

Por. Yes, yes, it was *Bassanio*, as I thinke so was he call'd.

Ner. True Madam, he of all the men that ever my foolish eies
look'd upon, vvas the best deserving a faire Ladie.

Por. I remember him wel, & I remember him worthy of thy
How now, what newes? (praise.

Enter a Servingman.

Ser. The foure strangers seeke for you Madam, to take their
leave: and there is a fore-runner come from a fift, the Prince of
Moroco, who brings word the Prince his Master will be here to
night.

Por. If I could bid the fift welcome with so good heart as I
can

the Merchant of Venice.

can bid the other foure farewell, I should be glad of his approach:
if he have the condition of a Saint, and the complexion of a Devil,
I had rather he should thrive me then wive me. Come *Nerrissa*,
firra goe before: whiles we shut the gate upon one wooer, ano-
ther knocks at the doore. *Exeunt.*

Enter Bassanio with Shilocke the Jew.

Shy. Three thousand Ducates, well.

Bas. I sir, for three months.

Shy. For three months, well.

Bas. For the which as I told you, *Antonio* shall be bound.

Shy. *Antonio* shall be come bound, vyell.

Bas. May you sted me? Will you pleasure me?

Shall I know your answer.

Shy. Three thousand Ducats for three months,
and *Antonio* bound.

Bas. Your answer to that. *Shy.* *Antonio* is a good man.

Bas. Have you heard any imputation to the contrary.

Shy. Ho no, no, no, no: my meaning in saying hee is a good
man, is to have you understand mee that hee is sufficient, yet his
meanes are in supposition: he hath an Argosie bound to *Tripolis*,
another to the *Indies*, I understand moreover upon the *Ryalta*, hee
hath a third at *Mexico*, a fourth for *England*, and other ventures
he hath squandred abroad, but Ships are but boardes, Saylers but
men, there be land Rats, and water Rats, water Theeves, and
land Theeves, I meane Pyrats, and then there is the perill of wa-
ters, vvindes, and Rockes: the man is notwithstanding suffici-
ent; three thousand Ducats, I thinke I may take his bond.

Bas. Be assur'd you may.

Jew. I will be assur'd I may: and that I may be assur'd, I will
bethinke me, may I speake with *Antonio*?

Bas. If it please you to dine with us.

Jew. Yes, to smell Porke, to eate of the habitation which your
Prophet the Nazarit conjured the devil into: I wil buy with you,
sell with you, talke with you, walke with you, and so following:
but I will not eate with you, drinke with you, nor pray with you.
What newes on the *Rialto*, who is he comes heere?

Bas. This is signior *Antonio*.

Enter Antonio.

Jew. How like a fawning publican he looks.

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